

From: Michael Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services  
Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment & Transport

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee  
– 13 January 2022

Decision No: For information only

Subject: **Decisions taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member Decision

**Future Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** County-wide

**Summary:** The attached decision was taken between meetings of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.4 below.

**Recommendation:**

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 21/00125, Kent Country Parks Playpark Equipment was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services has taken decision 21/00125 to award and enter into appropriate contractual arrangements to install new playpark equipment and/ or enhance existing playpark equipment across the Kent County Council portfolio of Kent Country Parks
- 1.2 The decision was taken between meetings of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, as it could not reasonably be deferred due to the reasons set out in paragraph 2.4 below.

**2. Background to decision**

- 2.1 Kent County Council has secured time limited Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding to enlarge or install new playpark equipment and outdoor seating/picnic areas to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The funding will have a particular focus on improving the park facilities in areas of higher deprivation.

2.2 The play areas will:

- include engaging equipment, suitable for all ages under 12.
- be inclusive and provide DDA compliant elements allowing access for all.
- be able to accommodate numerous children at once, due to the high foot fall the parks receive.

2.3 The COMF funding was awarded on 15 November 2021, however clarity of the funding restrictions were not detailed until early December 2021.

2.4 Due to the lead times to manufacture and deliver the playpark equipment the order is required in early January at the latest. There is a risk that the work would not be completed by the 31 March 2022, and therefore the funding lost as it currently cannot be rolled over to financial year 2022/23.

### 3. Recommendation(s)

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 21/00125, Kent Country Parks Play Equipment was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution.

### 4. Background Documents

- Record of Decision: 21/00125

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